

RESPONSE OF CENTRAL HARDWOOD FORESTS FOLLOWING ACTIVE MANAGEMENT

A McIntire-Stennis supported project

Oak-dominated forests provide forest ecosystem services to the forest community in which they exist through added richness and structure, and to the substantial number of wildlife species that are dependent for food and other sustenance. These mast-producing species are paralleled by none in their ability to perpetuate and maintain a lively, diverse forest wildlife community, and a decline in their existence will create novel conditions for those dependent on the resource. It is now widely accepted that disturbance is essential to the maintenance of this desirable community, and a lack thereof can have threatening consequences to their establishment.

While there is a recognition that active forest management is necessary to perpetuate oak dominance, it is still unclear which treatments and treatment combinations are best suited to accomplish this task, particularly in this region. In addition, the effect that these treatments have on the wildlife community is not well documented. This research is filling in the gaps of the current knowledge and improving forest management in this region.



COLLABORATION

- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service



About McIntire-Stennis

The McIntire-Stennis program, a unique federal-state partnership, cultivates and delivers forestry and natural resource innovations for a better future. By advancing research and education that increases the understanding of emerging challenges and fosters the development of relevant solutions, the McIntire-Stennis program has ensured healthy resilient forests and communities and an exceptional natural resources workforce since 1962.



IMPACT

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Application

Research from this project helps formulate silvicultural guidelines that are followed by private landowners in this region.



Outreach

Over 30 local, regional, and national presentations discussing the results of the research



Training

Results of this research are incorporated into undergraduate classes, thus training the next generation of foresters.